

NATHAN MATON-PARKINSON

Gallatin School of Individualized Study
Bachelor of Individualized Study, May 2010
Politics, Communications, and Human Rights



Nathan Maton-Parkinson is concentrating in Politics, Communications, and Human Rights. His individually-designed curriculum incorporates Marketing, Communication Studies, Political Science, Cultural Studies, Management, and Economics to study citizens' involvement in movements that combat social inequality and create youth political engagement.

Nathan's interest in addressing social inequality led him to volunteer in Panama as a community development volunteer through Amigos de las Americas (AMIGOS) in high school. During his collaboration with community leaders, he observed the dynamic of internal politics thwarting the community's efforts to effectively unify and address local development concerns. Upon returning to the U.S., he continued his work around ethical and human rights violations through Students for Peace and Justice (SFPJ). He became frustrated by how SFPJ protests antagonized their opponents and generated little productive discussion, and he wondered how citizens could mobilize for change in more effective and productive ways.

Nathan took a year off before enrolling in college to explore this question. He moved to San Francisco, and served as a live-in aide for a quadriplegic gunshot victim. During this time, he co-planned an independent media conference for the Independent Press Association that attracted over 2,000 attendees. He also served as the lead community organizer for the Bay Area chapter of Declaration of Peace, a national non-violent anti-Iraq war movement. In this role he formed a coalition among over a dozen Bay Area anti-war organizations to end the war in Iraq through nonviolent demonstrations and civil disobedience.

At Gallatin, Nathan has been examining how advocacy groups create change. He interned for Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP), a nonprofit group that fights for underprivileged communities' financial welfare. With NEDAP, he conducted research on Refund Anticipation Loans that sap individuals of their tax rebates through exorbitant interest rates. His research contributed to better enforcement of amended bank advertising laws that saved America's underprivileged communities over 100 million dollars in 2008.

Realizing advertising's ability to transform the social and cultural environment, Nathan interned for the *Village Voice* as a new media journalist in the summer of 2008, learning how advocacy efforts either gather the media's attention or fizzle. He also pioneered new methods of journalism for the *Voice*, such as using Google maps to tell stories and aggregating blog links to increase blog readership.

Based on his experience contributing to both the research and dissemination of information, Nathan co-founded The Ademos Project during the fall of 2008, repurposing the tools of advertising to generate social justice discussions. He won a \$1,000 seed grant from the 2008 NYU Reynolds/Youth Venture "Be A Changemaker Challenge" and ran a "Get Sustainable Campaign", which sought to increase awareness around environmental issues through creative methods. The group ran a water-tasting event challenging participants to attempt to discover which cup had tap water in it, reaching over 200 NYU students in one afternoon.

Nathan spent the spring 2009 semester in Berlin working for a German nonprofit using communications to stem the national rise of the NPD/Neo-Nazi political party. He has just finished research on new media's effect on national identity. This summer he is managing the Campaign for America's Future new media strategies as a communications intern. Next fall he plans to apply for funding from the Stern Social Venture Competition for a consulting firm model that expands on the work of his "Get Sustainable" Campaign.

NATHAN MATON-PARKINSON

EDUCATION

New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York, NY

Candidate for Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Major: Politics, Communications, Human Rights

HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

- NYU Reynolds Undergraduate Scholarship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2008
- Youth Venture Fellow, 2008
- Dean's Honors Society, 2007 - 2008
- John Hopkin's Center for Talented Youth Summer Program, 2002, 2003

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amadeu Antonio Foundation, Berlin, Germany

Communications Intern, Feb. 2009 – Present

- Translate German anti-right wing extremism policy into English for three policy communication websites
- Co-develop new methods to engage citizens in anti-right wing extremist education

The Village Voice, New York, NY

Web News Intern, June – Aug. 2008

- Reported daily for the news blog *Runnin' Scared*, covering development and political stories
- Developed and edited web content using HTML and Gyrobase for the Voice's new website
- Pioneered new techniques for storytelling using new media like Google maps software

Neighborhood Economic Development and Advocacy Center

Research Intern, Jan. 2008 – Present

- Expose illegal predatory lending practices through undercover research on Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs)
- Analyze research data to prepare facts and GIS maps for a policy report on RALs
- Aide financial injustice cases by filing cases in court

The Ademos Project, New York, NY

Co-Founder, Sept. 2007 – Present

- Develop an alternative reality game to entice non-political individuals into political discussions and actions (mock protests through a satirical storyline)
- Create advertisements connecting pop culture and historical references (i.e. Mickey Mouse to U.S. Democracy) using advertising slogans to draw attention to information about ways to connect to social movements
- Collaborate on business plan with partner to research financial models for online news websites and package campaign to appeal to potential seed investors

NYU Coles Gymnasium, New York, NY

Earth Treks Inc., Rockville, MD

Rock Climbing Instructor, May 2007 – Present

- Coached both children and adults from ages 6 to 60 in private classes and at an outdoor summer camp
- Developed students' ability to overcome fears such as descending over mountain edges

Bluestockings Bookstore and Community Center, New York, NY

Volunteer, Dec. 2006 - May 2007

- A cooperatively run bookstore that hosts community events on a nearly daily basis
- Promoted Bluestockings by tabling at festivals and conventions
- Collaborated with other activists and change-makers to help organize their events

Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, Oakland, CA

Bay Area Community Organizer, May 2006 – Aug. 2006

- Led the Bay Area Declaration of Peace Campaign, a national movement to end the war in Iraq through nonviolent demonstrations and civil disobedience
- Facilitated meetings with a coalition of local anti-war organizations and networks in the Bay Area
- Organized a co-sponsored Bay Area Press Conference to generate national press coverage and additional petition signatures
- Facilitated successful conflict resolution during a challenging internal disagreement

Independent Press Association, San Francisco, CA

LYRIC Development Intern, Oct. 2005 – Dec. 2005

Development Consultant, Jan. 2006 – Feb. 2006

- Researched and assisted grant writing process
- Contacted potential donors as part of a comprehensive stewardship program
- Helped plan the 2nd annual IPA Convention to 2,000 members by drafting letters and organizing transportation details

San Francisco Housing Authority, Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA

Live-in Aide, Aug. 2005 – Feb. 2006

- Assisted a quadriplegic gunshot wound victim in wheelchair travel, cleaning his throat, stretching his body to prevent spasms, and bathing
- Organized victim's life by coordinating transportation and meals

Satori Yoga Studio, San Francisco, CA

Operations Intern, Aug. 2005 – Feb. 2006

Donation Based Yoga Instructor, Mar. 2006 – Aug. 2006

- Instructed students of diverse income levels with a "pay what you can afford" policy
- Conducted workshops on Yoga Nidra, an alternative form of yoga to transform students through relaxation of physical, mental, and emotional systems
- Completed over fifty hours assisting prominent yoga instructors such as Karl Erb, Stephanie Snyder, Ginger Layden
- Created class reports data for the studio's marketing programs

Neighborhood Economic Development and Advocacy Center

Research Intern, Jan. 2008 – Present

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Flushing Mellows, Brooklyn Co-op, Brooklyn, NY

Co-Founder and Treasurer, Aug. 2007 – Present

- Founded Co-op in 4,500 sq. foot loft: designed interior, constructed walls and connected electricity
- Collaborate with members to plan fundraisers and other rent subsidizing events such as art openings, parties, and meals

- Track house expenses and member payments for the Co-op including shared expenditures and reimbursements
- Negotiate solutions to disputes between members through conflict transformation techniques

Daily Acts, San Francisco, CA

Director's Consultant, Nov. 2005 – Mar. 2006

- Consulted with director of struggling non-profit to develop organization through grant-writing, donor stewardship, and other standard techniques
- Developed approximate accounting systems for previous years where organization had no records
- Recorded positive feedback from organization's events for use in future fundraising efforts

AMIGOS de las Américas, Veraguas, Panamá

Community Development Volunteer, June – Aug. 2004

- Three month long volunteer service program to instigate development in impoverished communities
- Collaboration with community leaders to educate community about ways to improve health and education
- Rebuilt a community bridge, repainted two playgrounds and one school with the children in the community
- Taught English and leadership skills to Panamanian youth ages ten to eighteen at a local middle school
- Trained residents in the treatment of basic illnesses and avoidance of common diseases such as diarrhea and malaria

ACTIVITIES

Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York, NY

Orientation Leader, June 2007, 2008

- Collaborated on group activities to introduce incoming Gallatin freshman to each other and NYU
- Led four freshmen through class registration and advised them in class selection
- Gallatin Conscious Club (NYU), August 2007 – Present, Event Planner
- Collaborated on group activities to introduce incoming Gallatin freshman to each other and NYU
- Hosted an 'edible festival,' a Friday evening potluck to generate community through arts
- Planned and set up for the Emergent Event, an outreach event to attract new members

Gallatin Conscious Club (NYU), August 2007 – Present, Event Planner

- Collaborated on group activities to introduce incoming Gallatin freshman to each other and NYU
- Hosted an 'edible festival,' a Friday evening potluck to generate community through arts
- Planned and set up for the Emergent Event, an outreach event to attract new members

NYU Parliamentary Debate Team

Debater, Sept. 2006 – Present, Debater

- Debate on unknown policy shifts with a partner to convince a judge that they are unmerited
- Assisted in two NYU annual tournaments with over 500 participants

San Francisco AIDS LifeCycle

Volunteer Cyclist, June 4th-10th, 2006

- Biked 580 miles from San Francisco to LA to promote Aids Awareness
- Aided friend's fundraising and market efforts because he biked for the 8th year in a row in hopes of getting Oprah Winfrey to endorse the ride

Vipassana 10-Day Silent Meditation Retreat, Shelburne, MA

Participant

- Participated in silence for ten days straight in Vipassana Meditation

PUBLICATIONS

The Smallest Superpower, and *Aung Sung Suu Ki's Struggle for Democracy*, *PeacePower Magazine*, UC Berkeley

- Bi-annual student publication on nonviolence and conflict resolution

SKILLS

Certified Yoga Instructor, Certified Rock Climbing Instructor, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, GIS Mapping, Conversational Spanish